

Nation



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Canada makes a formal apology, finally



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Criminal acts must be punished

By Steve Bonspiel

Barriere Lake Chief Casey Ratt's house was recently burned to the ground in a dispute over power and control of the tiny Algonquin community. It is a method that is not only criminal and stupid, it seems to be the new way to voice displeasure within Aboriginal communities – and that is very frightening.

Although the Sûreté du Québec could not confirm which type of accelerant was used until their investigation is complete, there is no doubting that this was done by one or more sick individuals.

Ratt had run-ins with former Acting Chief Benjamin Nottoway ever since he was appointed as hereditary leader of the community in March of this year, making Ratt a target right from the beginning.

The opposition even went so far as to erect a blockade to try to keep Ratt and his opinions out of the community.

The incident, although vastly different in context, was eerily similar to one that happened in the Mohawk community of Kanesatake a few years ago.

On January 14, 2004, 65 Aboriginal police officers from various reserves were held captive for hours inside the local police station by angry protestors. The police were apparently sent to crack down on cigarette shacks and drugs in the community.

The end result was Grand Chief James Gabriel's house was burned to the ground, forcing him to flee. Luckily, no one was killed.

Thugs who have no regard for human life are responsible for these incidents. They look at public safety as a four-letter word. They turn their noses up at laws created to protect our people – and they get away with destroying people's lives. It is ultimately one the most callous violations when all of your possessions and mementoes are destroyed because of your beliefs.

Regardless of what people think of both men, the criminal act of burning down someone's home and destroying their worldly possessions is cowardly

and they should be punished justly. It is important to come down hard on these criminals to set an example that we will not take this type of intimidation.

The 1999 Supreme Court Gladue case compels judges to take into account an individual's Aboriginal background, but maybe it is time we think long and hard about that decision.

Granted, there are a disproportionate number of our people in jail, but letting everyone back onto the streets if they have committed a serious crime is not the answer. What about the victims? Do they not have any rights? What is their safety and security worth?

Whoever burned Ratt's house to the ground deserves to be punished swiftly and thoroughly whether he is Aboriginal or not.

How did this become the modern way of intimidation in the first place? It's gutless, plain and simple.

Some communities have their own ways of meting out justice through healing circles and other traditional ways.

As Mohawks, we used to have the gauntlet. If someone wanted to join the Mohawk Nation, he first had to make it through a long two-sided line of Mohawks, each beating him to near death as he passed by, until he got to the end of it and was either dead or accepted in.

Although that is a little crude by today's standards, anyone who burns down a family's home and puts little children's lives in jeopardy does not deserve much better.

A handful of idiots make our nations look bad. It is time that we, as community members, stand up to this tyranny and let our voices be heard. If anyone has information about this criminal act, call the police.

If the community comes down hard on the criminal acts of individuals who threaten our peace and harmony maybe they will see the path they are on for what it is – the wrong one.

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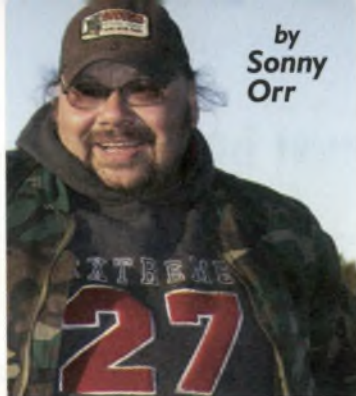
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by
Sonny
Orr

Summer student woes

The rake scratched the dry arid ground, scraping the last bubblegum wrapper left when Bazooka Joe was still a household name. The flimsy garbage bags busting under minimal pressure, reinforces the view that plastic garbage bags have a half-life of 15 minutes in the real world. Yet they somehow manage to stay intact at the garbage dump for centuries.

Yep, it's summer-student employment time again, and the rake, handled by a 14-year-old, scratched the surface once again, this being the fourth attempt to rake that doggone wrapper off the yellowed old grass from yesteryear.

Does employment for students really mean slave-like labour conditions, or is it that everyone's zombie-like condition is really a direct result of staying out to all hours of the night, night after night? Or is it a hormonal thing where everyone becomes allergic to bright early-morning sunlight and their eyes just can't seem to function properly?

I remember when summer-student employment was something that was based on the round-up system. If you were home that day when the employment agent called for you, you got a job digging ditches or throwing garbage. The lucky ones managed to get desk jobs - at least they had something to lay their tired heads on when the going got rough during the morning coffee break. Oh yes, the coffee breaks, the time when you actually get paid to stuff cookies and bad java down your throat. Back then 15-minute coffee breaks were 10 minutes long, so stuffing your face was a common activity.

Some summer jobs paid you only when the work was done and some paid you when they felt like it - or so it seemed. The worst kind of pay was when you had to share the pot with everyone else. So your size and age determined your wages for that week —talk about a dog-eat-dog world.

Today, student strikes can be imminent if the pay is more than five minutes late and near riots can break out if the cheques aren't signed. Woe to the employer who must face the wrath of the youth when it comes to pay day. I remember a trailer being burned down when living allowances were late by an hour back in the revolutionary 1970s. But hey, students were really hungry in those days, getting only a meagre hundred bucks per month.

Today, salaries have to be negotiated with street-savvy students, who seem to ask discerning questions about vacation pay, holiday pay and other perks and quirks, but nary a question about the job itself. Sometimes an employer gets lucky and lands a dream summer student from work heaven who has just the right credentials for your job and can do it when you're gone on vacation. But when you come back, your job has been altered somehow, so sometimes it's best to take someone who isn't at all interested in taking your job over while your away on holiday.

Whatever the reason for hiring a summer student, go ahead, hire away, give someone an actual job to do and see how they fare or mature.

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We want our school!

Students from Attawapiskat meet the evasive Chuck Strahl

By Amy German

On May 29, The National Day of Action, Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl met with three students from Attawapiskat on Parliament Hill and told them that they still cannot have the school they were promised three years ago.

Over 1000 people congregated in Ottawa to stand in support of the children and to make their voices heard in protest against child poverty and the dire conditions many reserves are subjected to on a daily basis.

After their meeting with Strahl, the students of Attawapiskat expressed disappointment as they had been promised a school three years ago but the project was cancelled last year due to a lack of funding and reprioritization. Children in Attawapiskat have been attending classes in dilapidated portable-trailer classrooms for eight years now ever since a diesel spill rendered their school building toxic.

"Mr. Strahl was repeating the same thing. He said he didn't have the money for the school and said that right now there are worse things going on and then he just rushed out of the room," said Shannon Koostachin, 13, a Grade Eight student who met with Strahl.

The students said that they found Strahl nervous and uncomfortable during the meeting particularly after he showed them around his luxurious office and Koostachin commented on how she wished her classroom looked like that or was at least that big. At the very least, Koostachin would like to see the washrooms relocated away from her frigid trailer classroom. "They are outside the classroom and I always have to turn on the tap so that no one can hear me."

When asked if they believed Strahl when he said that there simply was no money to build the school, Chris Kataquapit, 13, answered, "No, not one bit."

Charlie Angus, NDP MP for Timmins-James Bay, Ontario, said INAC is claiming it doesn't have the funding to build a new school in Attawapiskat or in any other First Nation community because the department keeps using the capital budget for schools as a "honey pot" to cover other programs that fall under Indian Affairs.

The most recent Auditor General's report on First Nations Child and Family Services also pointed to this in Section 4.72. "Because the program's expenditures are growing faster than the department's overall budget, INAC has had to reallocate funding from other programs. In a 2006 study, the department acknowledged that over the past decade, budget reallocations – from programs such as community infrastructure and housing to other programs such as child welfare – have meant that spending on housing has not kept pace with growth in population and community infrastructure has deteriorated at a faster rate."

According to Angus, last year \$109 million out of the capital budget went back to the Treasury Board as one of the Conservative government's major priorities is saving money and not spending it where it is needed.



Young students fighting the power

"So from 1999-2007, we have a total of \$579 million dollars reallocated from the capital facilities and maintenance program to address anything else that INAC needed. Over half a billion dollars has been taken out of the fund that was supposed to be there to build houses and schools in First Nation communities and this was used to cover just about everything from legal services, public affairs, communications and spin-doctoring," said Angus.

When the *Nation* contacted INAC in regards to Attawapiskat and capital funds for schools, an INAC press officer forwarded the transcription of a May 29 media scrum with Strahl. In it the minister stated, "We have about 30 or 40 major infrastructure projects this year, major renovations, health and safety issues that we have to deal with. There are lots of schools that need a lot of work but I don't have an exact number of schools that are ahead of Attawapiskat. But, again, we rank them first on health and safety and then we have a set of criteria."

The "health and safety" issues that Strahl is speaking of however have nothing to do with funding for education but rather a commitment made in the most recent budget for clean water and sewage treatment on reserves. According to Angus, Strahl has not made any capital announcements about school projects since his time in office and though some reparations and construction has happened during his reign, the projects themselves were the work of previous INAC minister, Jim Prentice.

"We've got 40 to 80 communities with no schools or condemned schools and yes we need to make a plan but you will never hear that from Mr. Strahl's mouth," said Angus.

More positively, since the Attawapiskat school fight began, the school and the NDP have gained a tremendous amount of support with 72 Ontario school boards backing the cause and lending their full support. Thousands of middle-class non-Native children have written letters and have become increasingly aware of the systemic discrimination and negligent abuse of children that is educational apartheid.

Angus said the Day of Action was a success for the cause as finally a face has been put on this tragedy.

Still, according to Angus, with INAC's inaction in addressing the situation, "they are basically consigning a generation of kids to the junk pile and that seems to be all right with them."

HAPPY ABORIGINAL DAY TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND CLIENTS FROM THE CREE NATION!

.....

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Canada Apologizes to Residential School Survivors

news

By Steve Bonspiel

After years of down-playing or outright ignoring the pain and suffering of former residential-school students, the Canadian government finally stepped up to the plate and delivered an apology for the sexual, physical and mental abuse suffered at the church-run schools by over 150,000 students.

"The treatment of children in Indian Residential Schools is a sad chapter in our history," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in the nationally-broadcast apology in the House of Commons June 11.

"Today, we recognize this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country," he continued. "The Government of Canada sincerely apologizes and asks the forgiveness of the Aboriginal peoples of this country for failing them so profoundly."

"ALTHOUGH HARPER SAID THAT THE APOLOGY REFLECTED THE CONSERVATIVES WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES HE STOPPED SHORT OF ADDRESSING HIS PARTY'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS RIGHTS BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS."

In what appeared to be a genuine, heartfelt apology, Harper spoke solemnly about one of the darkest chapters in Canada's past.

"The government recognizes that the absence of an apology has been an impediment to healing and reconciliation," said Prime Minister Harper. "Years of work by survivors, communities and Aboriginal organizations culminated in an Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

He also touched on the loss of language, culture and identity many Nations and individuals encountered in a thinly-disguised attempt at "killing the Indian in the child."

Although Harper said that the apology reflected the Conservatives willingness to work with Aboriginal peoples through many new initiatives involving residential

schools, he stopped short of addressing his party's failure to recognize Indigenous rights before the United Nations – something two of the three other parties capitalized on.

"We have to immediately recognize the rights and the culture of the Inuit, Metis and First Nations people by signing the U.N. declaration of rights for Aboriginal peoples," said NDP leader Jack Layton.

"The horrors of the residential schools continue to harm even those who never experienced them personally," he said. "There can be no equivocation of laws consciously enacted in this house that put the residential schools into place and kept them going for many years. It is in this house that we must start the process of reconciliation. That is why we are here together today to say we are sorry."

"The apology must not be an end, it must be a beginning," he said.

"Today's apology is about a past that should have been completely different," said Liberal leader Stéphane Dion. "But it must be also about the future. It must be about collective reconciliation and fundamental changes."

"It must be about moving forward together, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, into a future based on respect. It is about trying to find in each of us some of the immense courage that we see in the eyes of those who have survived."

Bloc Party leader Gilles Duceppe gave a fiery speech that called upon Canada to recognize the U.N. decree and to aid the most vulnerable people in Aboriginal society – the children.

After each of the party leaders spoke, Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine addressed the country.

"This day amounts to nothing less than the achievement of the impossible," he said.

Fontaine, from the Sagkeeng First Nation community in Manitoba, wore a traditional Ojibwa headdress for the historic occasion. He also brought with him the oldest and youngest residential



Students at St. Philip's

school survivors as well as other representatives from various Aboriginal organizations across the country.

"The significance of this day is not just about what has been, but equally important, what is to come," said National Chief Fontaine. "Never again will this house consider us the Indian problem just for being who we are."

"Finally we heard Canada say it is sorry," he said. "What happened today signifies a new dawn in the relationship between us and the rest of Canada."

Towards the end of his speech, Harper stressed his vision of a positive future for everyone in Canada.

"These are the foundations of a new relationship between Aboriginal people and other Canadians, a relationship based on knowledge of our shared history, a respect for each other and a desire to move forward together with a renewed understanding that strong families, strong communities and vibrant cultures and traditions will contribute to a stronger Canada for all of us."

Residential School Survivors:
A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available every day to provide immediate emotional assistance: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: <http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html>.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CHANGE THIS PICTURE??

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... AND BUILD A SAFE, HEALTHY
COMMUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN
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Helping to build a stronger,
healthier Cree nation.

Saving the polar bear

Now that polar bears are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as of May 14, Inuit groups have started to complain that they have lost money from the outfitting trade.

Though Americans were not the only group that frequented the outfitters of the north for the thrill of hunting the great white beast, they comprised the majority. All polar bear pelts, skins and trophies will now be banned from the U.S.

Outfitting companies are now hoping that new clientele can be developed in Europe, Australia and Asia.

The polar bear was placed on the endangered list after the U.S. Department of the Interior concluded that the projected melting of sea ice in the Arctic poses a threat to the bear's habitat. At the same time, the U.S. has not capped greenhouse gas emissions which are most likely causing the ice to melt.

Indeed global warming was the argument used by the Department of the Interior to get polar bears on to the list. The issue has since sparked an outcry amongst environmental groups as there are still special regulations in the U.S. that exempt greenhouse gas emissions and oil and gas industry activities.

It is expected that environmental groups in the U.S. will launch new lawsuits to combat global warming now that this defense of saving the polar bear has been accepted.

Canada's poor human rights

Amnesty International shook a shameful finger at Canada as well as various Western countries and China on May 28. Canada is getting a failing grade, particularly when it comes to protecting its Indigenous People from violence and defending their rights.

Canada was criticized when it came to not doing enough to fight torture, unfair trials, limited freedom of expression, and social inequality around the world. However, some of the harshest statements were leveled at Canada's treatment of its First Nations.

As Canada's own statistical data reveals Aboriginal women are five times more likely than other women to die a violent death, Amnesty suggested that "there is desperate need for a comprehensive national action plan to address the violence and protect indigenous women from discrimination."

The report also said the public inquiry into the Ontario Provincial Police's killing of Dudley George at Ipperwash on Sept. 6, 1995, should have provided a blueprint for strengthened protection of Indigenous People's rights but that did not happen. Instead, "disputes over land and resource rights continued, as did the authorities' failure to ensure they were resolved promptly and impartially." The Lubicon Cree of northern Alberta were used as the example for this.

The Canadian government's refusal to address the disparity in funding for Indigenous child protection agencies and its refusal to sign and implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples were also harshly criticized by Amnesty.

Gestion ADC first Cree Company to make PROFIT 100 list

Chisasibi's Gestion ADC (1996) Inc. is the first Cree company to make the list, PROFIT 100: Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies.

Gestion ADC, a catering and janitorial services company, is a subsidiary of the Cree Construction and Development Company and belongs to the entire population of Eeyou Istchee.

Ranking 27th among Quebec companies, Gestion ADC's 270 per cent revenue growth over the past five years solidified its place on *Profit Magazine's* 20th annual list, PROFIT 100: Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies.

The company's growth over the same five-year period has meant an increase in the number of employees from 237 to 446. Over 30 per cent of that total workforce is Cree, with Gestion ADC's Camp Rupert division being approximately 60 per cent Cree.

The Director of Gestion ADC, Anthony MacLeod, paid tribute to his employees. "This is an honour we share with every single worker who has ever been on our payroll," he said.

"It has not been easy for our Cree people to change their traditional way of life, gain an education, learn a trade and then use their new-found skills to improve their own lives. They have given up a lot of family time to make Gestion ADC what it is today, so I salute all of our workers on this."

The PROFIT 100 list is Canada's largest annual recognition of achievement in business, and is published in the June issue of *Profit Magazine*.

The 6th Annual PROFIT 100 Ceo Summit and Awards Dinner on June 17 in Toronto will recognize Gestion ADC and its accomplishments.



Bill Reid's artworks recovered in B.C. bust

Over \$2 million in stolen artworks were recovered following an RCMP raid in Burnaby, British Columbia, June 7 and 8.

The most prized piece of the collection, a gold box with an eagle created by renowned Haida artist Bill Reid, was successfully recovered, although two of Reid's pieces remain missing.

The artworks were stolen from the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology May 23.

Mukash looked at the Cree Way Project in Waskaganish as the “very first major change.” He said, “This remarkable project brought Cree culture and language into the Cree schools by providing Cree curriculum materials for the primary grade students in the Cree language and in English.”

Mukash said the Cree School Board was part of the reason why the residential-school era ended for the Crees when the CSB began in 1978. “We closed down this system that too often subjected members of at least two generations of Crees to the cruelty of irresponsible managers working in cold insti-



Gift to Elder Smally and Laurie Petawabano

tutional schools. As a result, these generations of Crees grew up outside of their families and removed from their culture. It was with the Cree School Board that brought education back to our communities and the children back to their families, where they belonged.”

Mukash said there were many changes in the Cree communities since Crees were mainly a hunting society. “Think of the great difference between the life of a Cree child growing up today in a Cree community and one growing up in the 1960s. Today a child sees people making a living working in offices, working as police officers, pilots, working in construction, or as fire fighters, teachers, working in restaurants, in health care, in forestry, mining and hydro-electric development. Moreover, they see the world on television and on the internet. They are faced with a world of choices and opportunities.”

He said the CSB has been part of that and the path hasn't been always been easy. “We must remember that we seized control of Cree education in 1975. Neither Canada nor Quebec gave it to us. The experience of the Cree School Board and of Cree governance proves this point. We had to fight for every gain that we have made since we signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement in 1975. We fought for the construction of adequate schools and for the budgets to provide the education promised in Section 16 of the treaty.”

Mukash sees the CSB as being an important part of the Cree way of life: past, present and for the future. He said, “Ask yourself: What are the best protections of our rights and way of life? The answer has to include our continued occupation of the land and the role of the Cree School Board in

“

Education is the key to the freedom of the Cree People and to a healthy and prosperous Cree Nation.

”

informing our children about their history and in preparing them to compete with others for the development of the resources on our lands.

“Education is the key to the freedom of the Cree People and to a healthy and prosperous Cree Nation.

“We must adapt and cannot always be limited by the separation of our people into 10 trading-post derived communities. In the past we were one people, the Eeyouch-Eenouch, living on our lands as the Eeyou Nation. It was only with the Indian Act that we became known as separate communities and this has continued under the Cree/Naskapi Act.”



Elijah Harper attends second day

Mukash went on to state, “The Cree School Board will be important in building the Cree Nation, as it will provide the training needed to implement a new level of Cree Nation governance that has yet to be seen elsewhere in Canada.

“As we build the Cree Nation, there will be growing needs for all types of expertise and the Cree School Board and the other Cree entities and businesses will have to find new ways to cooperate so as to build our economy and increase our jurisdiction and role in the governance of our lands.”

HAPPY NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

*to the whole Cree Nation and
to all our brothers & sisters
across the land!*



Cree Nation of Mistissini



Wishing everyone
in the Cree Nation a great
National Aboriginal Day.

A time to be proud of our culture
and traditions, a time to be with
our friends and family.

Enjoy!



The **Cree Nation of Mistissini** would like to remind all sponsors, patrons and participants that the 5th Annual Stanley Longchap Golf Classic will be held on July 24th, 2008 at the Chibougamau-Chapais Golf Club.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament as we celebrate another worthy community initiative.

For more information contact Shawn Iserhoff at cnmgolf@hotmail.com.

5th Annual Stanley Longchap Golf Classic

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"You carry the torch of a champion. You may not fully recognize it, but it is with you, wherever you go. Its' fire is your winning spirit."



The master of ceremonies for the event was JBCCS's well-known program manager and broadcaster Luke MacLeod. He presented the opening of Cree Day, followed by activities outside of the sports complex including net-making, carving, sewing, embroidery and snowshoe-making in traditional tee-pees.

The opening feast, catered by Dave Mianscum and other community members, consisted of traditional food and a speech presented by Freddie Dixon, the winner of the public-speaking contest in the Cree sector. Following the meal was the recognition of Grand Chief Mathew Mukash, longest-reigning Principal Dorothy Gilpin, longest-reigning school committee member George W. Gilpin and retired CEA Alfred Coonishish. Later that evening fiddle music and traditional fiddle dances were presented by the youth of Eastmain as well as Mistissini.

The meals following the opening were catered by Ottawa's Sweetgrass Aboriginal Bistro co-owned by Mistissini's very own Phoebe Blacksmith-Sutherland.



Luke MacLeod — former Chairman and Emcee for event



Chief John Longchap opening the second day



Cutting of ribbon



Workshops set up outside in teepees



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Joyeuse Journée Nationale des Autochtones!

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Happy National Aboriginal Day!

My best wishes go out to you for the National Aboriginal Day. This is a privileged time to celebrate your history and cultural heritage as you continue to build a future for you and yours in the Northern Quebec region.

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Nos meilleurs vœux à la nation Cri lors des célébrations de la
JOURNÉE NATIONALE DES AUTOCHTONES
 de la part de la population de Chibougamau

Our best wishes to the Cree Nation on the occasion of
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY CELEBRATIONS
 from the population of Chibougamau.

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 Carole Dumoulin, conseillère
 Jerry Poirier, conseiller

Donald Bubar, maire/mayor

Manon Cyr, conseillère
 Lianne Piquette, conseillère
 Rejean Girard, conseiller





ALGONQUIN CHIEF'S HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND

The leadership dispute at Barriere Lake continues

By Steve Bonspiel

Chief Casey Ratt's house was burnt to the ground in what appears to be a case of arson as the volatile situation between the traditionally-appointed band council and the opposition in the Algonquin community of Barriere Lake is heating up.

Ratt and his family were at the powwow in Maniwaki on June 1 when his house was torched. As a result there were no injuries.

"We tried to save what we could, like clothes and stuff, but there was too much damage," said Chief Ratt, who received a call around 8:15 that morning. "About 80 percent of it is burned; we can't live there that's for sure."

As a result of the fire, Ratt will be moving into an aunt's cabin located on the territory for the time being until he and his family can find a place to live.

"We think it's criminal because we found accelerant from an analysis at the scene," said Gatineau Sûreté du Québec media-relations officer Mélanie Larouche.

"We still need to meet with neighbours and witnesses so it's an ongoing investigation," said Larouche, who added that she is not getting full cooperation from some community members.

Ratt has been embroiled in a dispute with former Hereditary Chief Jean Maurice Matchewan, who stepped down as chief last year amidst allegations of drug-use and possessing an illegal handgun, and former Acting Chief Benjamin Nottoway, who has denied Ratt's leadership from the beginning.

A blockade was erected by Nottoway's side after Ratt was appointed chief this past March.

Both sides have made allegations of violence, vandalism and theft.

To make matters worse, Ratt and his family did not have insurance on their home. "They said they wouldn't insure it because of the wood stove we have in the basement," he said. "There's no insurance on the houses here."

The community did have minimal insurance paid for by the band council at one point, but a fire that took down two houses caused the rates to go "sky high" from \$60,000 to \$100,000 a year.

The tiny community of 350 residents has also had problems with its elementary school, which has been shut down for months by the former chief as a pressure tactic to get more funding from the government.

The council's minuscule operating budget of \$350,000 limits its capacity to provide essential services – such as policing and health care – to the community.

The fire further illustrated the housing crisis on the reserve. Ratt lived there with his wife and two kids as well as with his parents and sister.

"They didn't want to hurt any of us is what I'm hearing," said Ratt. "I heard they were trying to go after some documents they thought were there. But what if my kids had been there? They're trying to run us off the reserve and this is one of the ways they are trying to do it."



Chief Casey Ratt's house

To top it all off, Ratt said he knows who did it, but his hands are tied until the investigation is complete in a few months.

"I know it's not all of the opposition, it's just a few individuals trying to create scare tactics," he said. "I know who it is. He's been bragging about it, but I can't say because I have no proof. He'll get what's coming to him as the investigation progresses."

To top it all off, the federal government is threatening to get rid of the hereditary system and instill the Indian Act electoral system that it thinks will put a stop to the infighting.

"I've always been a strong supporter of my own customs and traditions," said Ratt. "There is something within our system that says if you do not like the leadership, there is a process to change it. I welcome it and I would be part of it, rather than the tactics they have been using. I don't agree with their tactics at all."



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Bonne journée Nationale des autochtones

Télébec wishes good celebrations to all the communities.

Happy National Aboriginal Day

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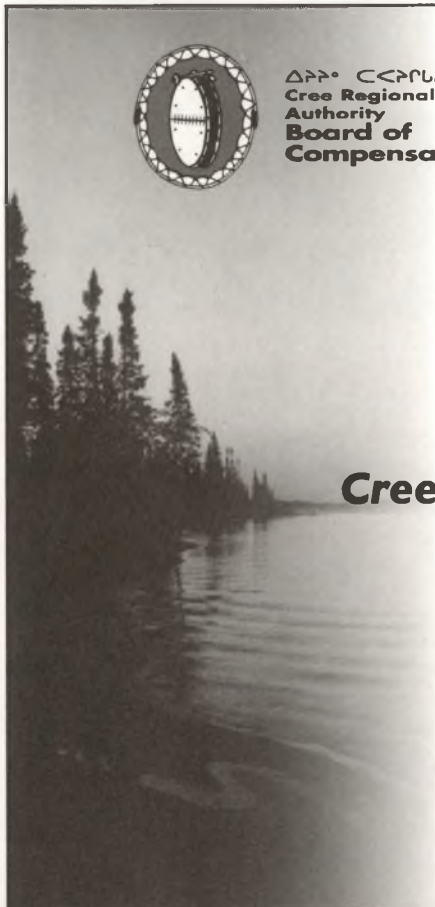
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all in having a safe, enjoyable and memorable
National Aboriginal Day!*

On May 13, Claude Béchar, Quebec's Minister of Natural Resources, and Benoît Pelletier, the Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, announced in a joint press conference that Hydro-Québec will hand out 500 megawatts more in contracts to Aboriginal wind-power developers and companies in remote areas.

This statement comes after both Hydro and the provincial government were heavily criticized following the announcement of the 15 winning bidders for 2,004 megawatts in the south of Quebec. The winners did not include any of the four Aboriginal groups tending for the contracts.

The Aboriginal companies will be able to sell back their energy at a higher rate than the original 15 bid winners, at 9.5 cents per kilowatt hour as opposed to the 8.7 cents the private developers will be receiving.

At the same time, the 500 megawatts will be portioned into 25-megawatt blocks to be divided amongst 20 Aboriginal developers. These blocks are much smaller shares than those who got in on the ground floor of the original bidding process for 2,004 megawatts. The new bidding process will begin this fall with the expectation that the wind-power stations will start producing energy between 2012 and 2014.

According to René Paquette, the director of electricity for the natural resources ministry, the new 500 megawatts is part of Hydro-Québec's energy strategy for 2006-2015 and part of its goal is "to promote the direct involvement of small communities."

Between issues of land ownership, proposed energy-output capacity, delays in grid hook-ups and the capacities of the windmills to operate under extreme conditions among other criteria, both of the proposed wind-energy projects in Mistissini and Chisasibi, along with proposed projects by the Innu and the Mi'kmaq, all lost out to private investors.

Paquette stated that the Aboriginal groups were being allowed to sell their energy back at a higher rate to "give a greater chance to the project to generate financial and economical benefits to the participating communities." The move can be seen as reactionary in view of the heavy criticism both agencies received. Chief John Longchap of Mistissini concurred on this issue.

When Ted Moses was Grand Chief of the Crees, he secured a tender from the government to develop the two proposed wind-power stations and set aside special allocations to the tune of 250-300 megawatts outside of the new bidding process for the extra 500 megawatts.

Longchap is still frustrated, however, over not being included in the original deal that Hydro sought out tenders for as both the multi-billion dollar wind-power stations are still on hold until Hydro-Québec gives the final go-ahead for the project and over how the deal Moses fought for has not gone through yet. "Hydro is stalling but that is where you have to differentiate, those are the negotiations in which we set aside special allocations for the Crees."

At the same time, with the 2,004 megawatts that bids went in for back in 2005. "We submitted a project and Chisasibi submitted a project. But when they announced the winners, none of them had Aboriginal content. There were no projects in the North that were considered and even though the price per kilowatt hour went for 8.75 cents, the price we submitted was much lower than that."

According to Longchap, despite the fact that Hydro-Québec has been stalling on closing the deal for over a year now, there is still a great deal of interest in this energy source for the Crees. This variety of energy production does not involve flooding more land in the North and the economic impacts of the projects would be felt community-wide between new employment opportunities and various other economic spin-offs. At the same time, Longchap is still drumming his fingers and waiting.

Blowing in the wind

Aboriginal wind-power developers left out to dry

by Amy German

**AT THE SAME TIME,
THE 500 MEGAWATTS
WILL BE PORTIONED
INTO 25-MEGAWATT
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Left to right: Réjean Côté, Denis Devin and Marcel Devin, Ébénisterie BMD inc.; Michèle Perron and Ghislain Desjardins, Conseil régional des partenaires du marché du travail de la Jamésie; Marjolaine Loiselle, CPMT.




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I choose to forgive

By Matthew Coon Come

I was taken away from my parents at a young age to attend La Tuque Indian Residential School, situated in central Quebec, approximately 300 hundred miles away from my home community of Mistissini, Quebec.

I was at the IRS for 10 of the most vulnerable years of my life.

The residential school I attended was officially opened by then minister of Indian affairs, the Honourable Jean Chrétien, and was operated by the Anglican Church.

The federal government wanted to take the Indian out of me. It did not succeed. I know that I know who I am. I am Eeyou, a human being, son of a great hunter, and member of the Cree Nation.

The federal government wanted to assimilate me into the Canadian body politic. It did not succeed. I love my country, my land and my people.

The federal government wanted our peoples to disappear, because of our title to our lands and resources. It did not succeed. Our peoples are still here to assert our rights. We are still in the way. We are not going away.

Church officials slapped me for speaking my language and wanted me to lose my language and traditional ways. They did not succeed. I speak my mother tongue fluently and I and my family are Cree.

They told me that my culture, and my people's ways of life would never sustain me. They lied. I am a son of a hunter, fisherman, and a trapper. My father taught me how to walk the land, and to love and respect the animals and all of creation. I have not lost my culture. Our way of life is thriving.

They tried to force their religion on me. I hate religion. I hate the traditions. Religion kills. But I have found peace, love, and faith in a personal relationship with Christ.

Matthew Coon Come

former National Grand Chief, AFN,
former Grand Chief of the Crees, GCCEI,
former Chief of Mistissini



The staff at the residential school physically and sexually abused me. At this they succeeded for I was only a child. I am still on a healing journey.

An apology was read today by the prime minister on behalf of the government and on behalf of the people of Canada. His sincerity and that of the Canadians he represents will be determined by others.

As a residential school survivor, I have waited a long time for this day. And I accept the apology. Each survivor must make his or her own decision. I decided a long time ago that I would move forward. I want broad change, but that change must start with me.

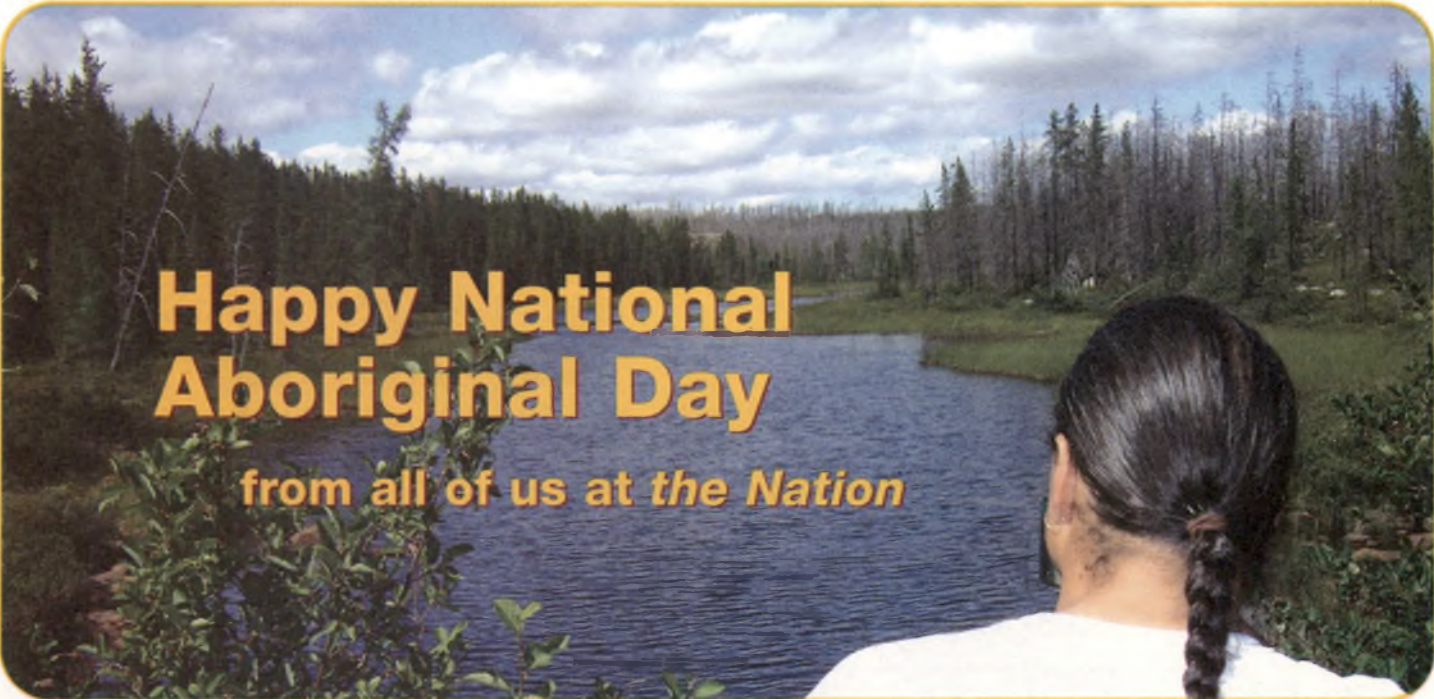
I choose to forgive those who took me away from my parents, my grandparents, my community and our traditional lands and resources.

I choose to forgive Mr. Chrétien for opening and allowing the residential schools to operate.

I choose to forgive the church officials who tried to kill my language and my culture, and who wanted me to be ashamed of whom and what I am.

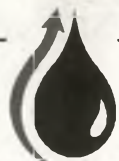
I choose to forgive those who physically and sexually abused me.

It is time for me to move on. And to continue being Cree, in defiance of everything the federal government intended for me and my people. And to continue asserting our peoples' human rights to self-determination, to our cultures and to our resources and lands.



**Happy National
Aboriginal Day**
from all of us at the Nation

Roger Orr; taken by Neil Diamond



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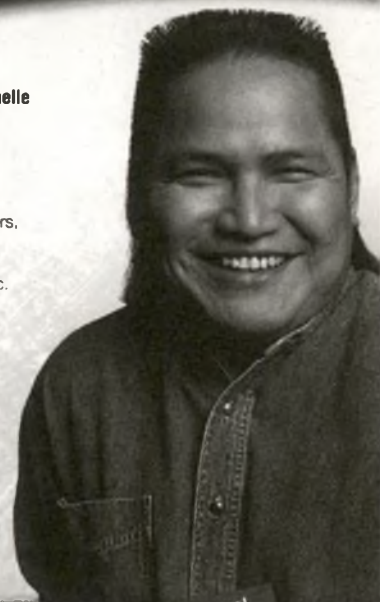
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Outgoing Copy Editor Lyle Stewart with his Cree finger warmers.



Outgoing News Editor Steve Bonspiel with sales queen Danielle Valade.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Nation picks up more awards at the QCNA

By Neil Diamond

Almost every spring for the past 14 years, come rain or shine, *the Nation* has attended the Quebec Community Newspapers Association's (QCNA) annual awards dinner. A quick count reveals over 60 awards nailed to our newsroom walls, including citations for outstanding writing, photography, sales performance under fire, and selfless public service.

There is no mention on any of the framed certificates of years of boorish, embarrassing behaviour in front of other serious professional journalists. *The Nation*, it seems, has made it a tradition to raise a little hell at these events. Not unlike the inebriated relative at the family holiday dinner who everyone begrudgingly tolerates. The raucous *Nation* table always draws stares and glares or an angry hiss to quiet a loud offender—usually before dessert and coffee. Aaaaah, fond, if somewhat fuzzy, memories.

The festivities took place again on the good ship *Le Cavalier Maxim*, a double-decker riverboat that cruises up and down the St. Lawrence River several times a day. Once aboard, cocktails were served immediately. On the menu: filet-mignon and salmon, exquisitely presented and served by uniformed staff. Once the boat left its mooring the ceremony began. Sadly, William Nicholls and Steve Bonspiel were the only ones nominated for their work at this year's QCNA's.

The *Nation's* first award was silver for Best Feature Page. Steve Bonspiel's *The Balance of Power*, a feature story about Native women from across the Americas meeting in Kahnawake, was designed by Richard Lawson. The judges called it "captivating, with good photos and art and a very appealing layout."

Nicholls received the coveted Bronze Quill Award for his long service at his publication and QCNA. There was little

time for him to express his appreciation though several quick photographs were taken. Nicholls also received 2nd place for Best Editorial (General) for his *Silent Crime of Child Poverty*.

Bonspiel nabbed another 2nd place win in the Best News Story category. This one for a piece he wrote on the troubled Cree community of Kashechewan.

Bonspiel would go on to win Best Education Story (another 2nd place) about Cree and Inuit teachers getting tax

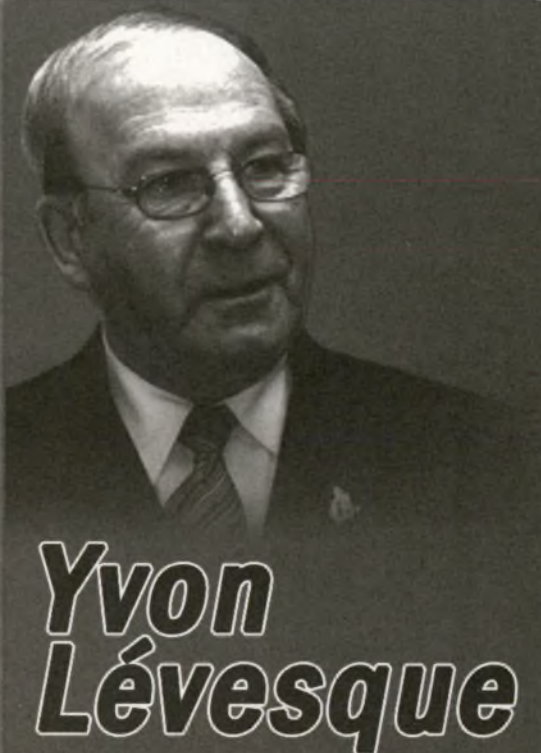


New guy at the *Nation*, world famous editor Martin Siberok

breaks. And he also won, yet another 2nd place, for Best Sports Story, which was judged an "important, inspiring story."

Shortly after dinner, the *Eastern Door's* Kenneth Deer stood up and almost sadly announced his semi-retirement from journalism and the sale of his Mohawk newspaper. He informed everyone that he was passing the torch to *the Nation's* Steve Bonspiel and his sexy fiancée Tracey Deer, best known for such films as the ever-controversial *One More River* and *Mohawk Girls*. Those Mohawks, they know how to stick together.

The evening took an emotional turn when Nicholls, in his capacity as editor-in-chief, presented outgoing *Nation* copy editor and sometime editorialist, Lyle Stewart with a parting



Député d'Abitibi-Bale James-Nunavik Eeyou

Je tiens à profiter de cette journée des autochtones pour souhaiter à toutes les communautés des Premières nations une belle et heureuse fête.

Que cette fête qui est la vôtre soit l'occasion de célébrer haut et fort la contribution de toutes les citoyennes et de tous les citoyens à l'édification de chacune de vos communautés. Que cette journée soit l'occasion d'exprimer votre fierté d'être autochtones.

Bonne fêtes à toutes et à tous!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the First Nations communities a happy National Aboriginal Day. May this day be your opportunity to proudly celebrate the contribution of all citizens in building your communities. May this also be a day to celebrate your pride in being Aboriginal.

Best wishes to everyone for National Aboriginal Day!



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JUNE 21ST

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY



On behalf of the Government of Québec, I would like to extend my best wishes to the ten Aboriginal nations and the Inuit nation of Québec.

This year especially, while Québec City is marking its 400th anniversary, let us celebrate the meeting of our peoples. Our collaboration and exchange are bringing us together more and more, and this bodes well for a bright future socially, economically and culturally.

I am taking this opportunity to congratulate the communities that take up the challenges of modernity with courage and determination, while seeking to preserve their heritage and their traditions.

Benoît Pelletier
Minister for Native Affairs

Secrétariat
aux affaires
autochtones

Québec

gift – a gorgeous pair of Cree mittens sewn by Eliza Webb. A shocked and touched Stewart took several long moments to recover from this heartfelt gesture. Sniffle, sniffle.

This year's Master of Ceremonies, Dennis Trudeau, performed his duties admirably and coolly. He called for peace and quiet only once when he admonished our table along with a promise that the formalities would soon be over and then we would be free to drink and dance, marking our silver-lined victories.

Our ship arrived at port right on schedule and we disembarked. It was still early so *the Nationites* rushed the Irish Embassy, a well-stocked pub on Bishop Street. Here, Nicholls claims he astonished the Irish crowd with his rhythmic jigging. It was the only moment of the night that we placed 1st.



Clockwise from top:

Neil, Lyle and writer Amy German after dessert.

Mohawk chick Tracey Deer and Danielle: "High five sister!"

Tracey, again, with the feared Linda Ludwick.

Séri and Manon.

Tracy (Again!?) with vivacious Valade.

The always jovial Jake "The Suit" Kent.

Drinking buddies Diamond and Stewart drink.

Mona stands by as a smoke signal is sent to port.

Happy Will and Steve with one of their many awards

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A pathway in the sky

Looking at me today – walking cane, prosthesis and all – you'd never guess I used to be a hockey player. While I was attending residential school in Moose Factory I suffered a concussion during a hockey tournament. I woke up in the treatment room and was admitted to the hospital for further observation.

Toward evening I began to experience severe headaches, nausea, fever and high temperatures. I became ill suddenly and the symptoms were excruciating. The doctor ordered an injection to help ease my pain and possible delirium. I thought I would die then and there and that is the last thing I remembered.

Later that night I was awakened by a very bright light and I felt a strange feeling come over me, like being lifted off my bed. Next thing I remember I was floating in the air and I was light as a feather! I was actually "flying" and I was very happy, laughing and excited. I "flew" over the hospital and the ground below.

Next I saw a "pathway" with trees on each side and I was drawn towards a beautiful scene across the river. The water was so calm and crystal clear. The grass and trees were dazzling and glistening in the morning dew and sunlight. I heard music and songbirds everywhere. It was beauty beyond compare or human imagination. For reasons unknown I turned and saw the hospital. (I have to stop here and explain the reason. My late sister, Rosie, told me if I had not turned here, I would have died and an elder, and friend, told me precisely the same!) My body suddenly felt heavy and I barely made it to my bed. Everything was hazy or foggy. I do not recall anything after that.

When I awoke it was daylight. The nurse came in and explained to me what happened. She said, "You were a very sick boy last night but you look better this morning." I was but I did not tell her what happened and the mysterious dream I had.

I was discharged later that day. I went back to school, started playing hockey and other sports again. I still have the scar which is about the size of the puck that knocked me out.

It should be noted that no textbooks on dreams, or compilation of dreams, events, whether scientific research on dreams, articles and/or publications were used to interpret and described the context of my "dream". As they say in movies, "any facts, similarities or resemblance are coincidental and fictitious" – not necessarily in that order. My only intent is to share my story with my Native People, friends, family and readers of the *Nation* for the sole purpose of entertainment and amusement and not to discredit anyone or experts in the sciences of dream research.

For the clarification of references there are almost none. The only reference I used is the Webster's Dictionary which defines phenomenon as anything perceived by the senses as a

fact, which can be "scientifically described: a remarkable thing or person." You be the judge!

One thing I learned from this experience is that it is very simple to interpret – there are no obstacles to intervene. The dream, for lack of a better word, is clear and does not fade away as do the scenes in our regular night dreams, in which these scenes appear to be moving away from you. They can be precarious, distorted and hard to understand their meaning. There are good dreams, like the one where you've won a million-dollar lottery. I'd better check my mail today! I'm not knocking dreams. Our Native Elders and Aboriginal People have an excellent perception and expertise when you want to know what dreams mean. Unfortunately I am not one of them.

I have returned home to Mistissini and family and friends after an absence of 65 years in Ontario. What happened to the tents? I wish everyone a safe and prosperous harvest this spring.

Ron Mianscum
Mistissini

Teachers + School = Road to Success

"Get up or you'll be late!" is what I heard every morning of the week during the school year. Poor mom always pushing me and as for me being the rebel slamming the door as she goes back upstairs to make my breakfast. Five more minutes I plead. "No way," says mom, "you're gonna be on time for school today." These are the words that still echo in my head watching all these successful people reaching their goals through perseverance and hard work.

Would I be jealous? Would I say, look at that guy's funny-looking tie! You look stupid in a suit! Now why would I say such awful things? Of course, we sometimes insult people to make us feel better. Later on in life we end up seeing why mom and dad kept pushing us to go to school. We never gave in because they never shoved us out the door to get a life.

The reality of life in the Cree and white society is that we, the Cree, do not teach responsibility at a young age. Understanding the importance of rules in a household and the importance of raising a family is hard work for our parents. They never want to disappoint us and why does it make it easier for us to disappoint them.

One answer is "lack of discipline, rules broken with no punishment = no respect". It does not make us bad parents when we discipline our kids with some sort of punishment. I am sorry to mention what I hear some kids say at school these days when they get into trouble: "Who cares! My mom and dad won't do anything even if I mess up or if I call you a freak."

We must understand how lucky we are for what we have today, an opportunity to be successful on obtaining our goals. When people have a skill and want to use it to help others to reach their full potential and to be successful makes them feel



On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and AFN Regional Chiefs, I extend our best wishes as you celebrate

National Indian Solidarity Day on June 21st.

I have always said that the future of this country is directly tied to the future of First Nations people. Simply put, our future is Canada's future.

The AFN has called on the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to protect our children, invest in our future and respect our responsibility to one another.

Working together, we can achieve our vision of a better, brighter and just future for our children today and our future generations.

Enjoy the celebrations!

Phil Fontaine, National Chief

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada of all ages, gender and places of residence.

473 Albert Street, Suite 810,
Ottawa ON K1R 5B4
Tel: (613) 241-6789
Toll-free: 1-866-869-6789
www.afn.ca



**We would like to wish
the Cree Nation a**

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*From the Chief and council,
staff and members of
MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION*



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good too and that is why they do it. It's hard to believe for some people that a teacher really feels disappointed? As for some they might say, "They are only doing it for the money anyhow."

Teachers want to teach. How easy is it for a teacher when no one wants to learn or at least make an effort? Teachers cannot enjoy what they do when we have disrespectful kids who will do everything else but pay attention to the teacher. When they say "the road to success", it should be pointed out that it is the teachers who pave that road in order for students to be successful and reach their goals.

Imagine a door opens and you see another door. Okay at least you have another door to open. Compare this to another example, you open a door and you see 10 other doors giving you an opportunity of where you want to go and want to be in life, more choices. This is the door that opens when you succeed in high school, a chance at what some people desire to be, a chance at success!!!

John Blackned
Nemaska

Goodbye!

Wow, it's been five and a half years already!

When I first started at *the Nation* I knew little about the Crees. Goose break? Walking out ceremony? Billy Diamond? What?

I soon learned to love and respect the Cree people. You allowed me into your lives, shared your stories with me and most of all, taught me about your vibrant culture, language and traditions. Your uncanny ability to be patient even after those long, grueling days of the public consultations during the Paix des Braves was truly mind-boggling!

Over the years I've had the opportunity to experience goose break for myself with Paul Dixon, whom I consider a good friend of mine. Although I didn't kill any geese, I learned a lot about the trials and tribulations Crees have in dealing with non-Native hunters who have little regard for Cree rights and Cree land.

It was experiences like these that pushed me to report the horrible incidents that undermined and took advantage of Cree kindness.

My girlfriend Tracey Deer and I have purchased the Eastern Door, located in her home community of Kahnawake. It is a natural progression and has been a dream of ours for many years. So if you come to the Kahnawake powwow, be sure to stop by our tent.

The biggest thing that sticks out in my mind from my time here is how welcoming the Cree people are. I have visited each community at least twice and it never ceased to amaze me that even though many in the Cree Nation are very shy, they made sure that a visit to their community was a positive experience.

During my time at *the Nation* I met special people like Gord Hudson, Roderick Rabbitskin, Irene Neeposh and Kim Quinn.



photo by David Katapatuk

Keenan Katapatuk's first geese.



Steve during his last *Nation* production

I won't name everyone because the list is too long, but the ones who touched me the most know who they are.

My co-workers made my days here at *the Nation* not only fun, but also eye-opening as well. I learned about Indian food, classic Simpson lines and I improved my French. A special thank you goes out to you guys!

Lastly, I'd like to thank Will Nicholls and Linda Ludwick and the rest of the gang who gave me a chance to give writing a shot. I showed up one day in hopes of landing a job and what I came out with were friendships that will last forever and memories that will always put a big smile on my face.

Meegwetch Eeyou Istchee!

La SDBJ souhaite à tous une excellente Journée nationale des autochtones!

The SDBJ wishes everyone a Happy National Aboriginal Day!

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Grand Council of the Crees
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Grand conseil des Cris
(Iᓴᓴᓯᓯ ᐱᓯᓯᓯᓯ)



On June 21st we will be celebrating our Cree heritage and take pride in what makes us unique as a People and as a Nation. Let us recognize our ancestors who walked the land before us, and be thankful to our elders who walk among us for their teachings and unconditional love. Together let us acknowledge the past, savor the present, and make a positive imprint for the future.

Have a great time participating in the festivities offered in your community.

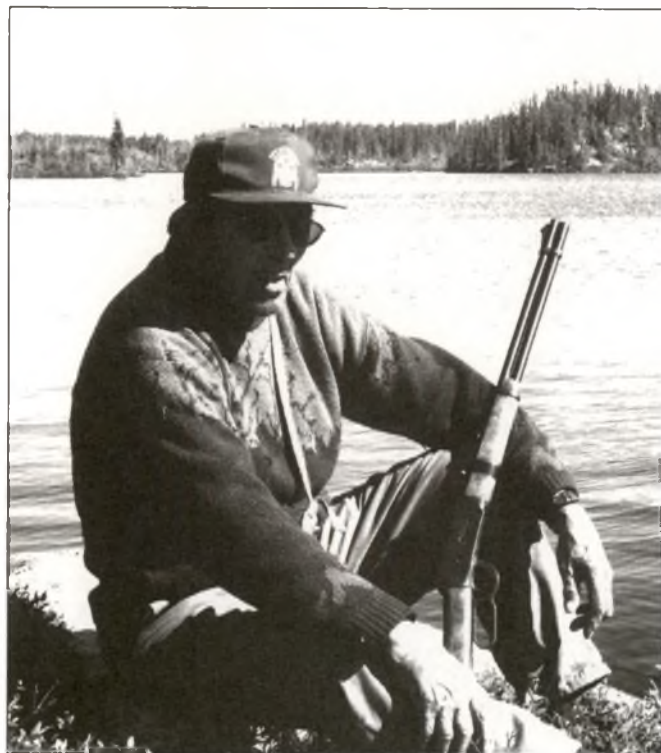
**We wish everyone
a Happy National Aboriginal Day!**

Matthew Mukash
Grand Chief

Ashley Iserhoff
Deputy Grand Chief

In Memory of Philip Bosum

September 9, 1918 – May 6, 2008



On behalf of our dear mother Sarah and the rest of the Bosum family, I would like to thank everyone who prayed for our late father Philip, and who shared our grief.

Special thanks to Louise Neeposh and her mother Catherine Etapp who sat with Dad during our food breaks and to Edna Mattawashish for dropping in to see Dad during the night while she was hospitalized.

Thanks to all the people who took time off from their goose break, and to those who came to offer their love, prayers, and comfort at the church, feast, and the cemetery.

Thanks to Leslie Mianscum and Uriah Neeposh who dug Dad's final resting place at the Mistissini cemetery.

Most gracious thanks to the doctors and nurses at the Chibougamau hospital who helped make Dad's final days easier, especially Dr. Josée Brassard for her kindness and empathy.

Thank you so much!

DAD

*Thank you for the early morning fires that kept us warm
Thank you for your gentle hands that held us when we were born
Thank you for your always so gentle and courteous heart
And the one-of-a kindness that you shared
With your family, all children, and to the Elders
Thank you for the tears you cried
Thank you for the tears you dried
Thanks, Dad.*

John Bosum
May 20, 2008

JOB POSTING



Title: Replacement Executive Director
Organization: Cree Outfitting & Tourism Association (COTA)
Location of work: Ouje-Bougoumou, QC
Start Date: August 1, 2008

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 Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA)

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Ye olde bicycle shop

by Xavier Kataquapit

If you have ever owned a bicycle, chances are you have visited a local bicycle shop when you needed something fixed or replaced. These days your visit to a bike shop may take you to a modern storefront where you may find a sales, repair and accessory buffet for bikers.

However, there are still little shops in most communities where a bicycle enthusiast actually runs the place and he or she recycles parts to do repairs. Back home up north in Attawapiskat my cousin Robert was basically a jack-of-all-trades when it came to fixing anything made of a metal including cars, trucks, tractors, all-terrain vehicles and bicycles.

I remember that my summers in Attawapiskat revolved around my bicycle. When I did not have a bike I was pretty much left out of the loop as my friends raced around the community on two wheels. We were never gentle with our bikes. We rode on all sorts of trails and roads to get to where we were going. Our bikes went through mud, water, wet clay and sand. We drove them over coarse gravel, rocky riverbanks, tree stumps, tall grass, brush and fallen trees.

Inevitably, our precious bikes would break down. At first we did our own repairs. If the brakes or brake-cables broke, we stripped them and used a method of wedging one foot between the frame and the back tire to stop our bikes. When the lines that operated the gears stopped working we removed them and wedged pieces of wood, metal or even small stones to lock everything into a middle gear for the best overall ride. Anything beyond these simple repairs and we had to make a visit to Robert with the hope that he had what we were looking for.

In a way, I looked forward to visiting Robert's shop in the middle of town. At the time, he maintained one of the few garages in town that could accommodate a truck or car so that he could work indoors. His yard was filled with abandoned cars, trucks, four wheelers, the odd tractor, heavy machinery and a collection of old bicycles.

Whenever, I ended up with a bent wheel that could not be mended at home, Robert was sure to find a good tire from his collection. None of us were fussy – all we hoped for from Robert was to get us going down the trail again. There was no attention paid to colour matching, finding the right size or having a full set of spokes for a replaced wheel. As long as it worked and we could ride our bike we were happy and we gladly paid the five dollars it took for Robert to put us back on the road.

As an adult I have had the opportunity to travel to many towns and cities across Ontario where I managed to spend some time bicycling on old rail lines and paved trails. It doesn't seem to matter where I end up, there is always a bicycle man nearby and just when I need him.

Almost all of these little shops are owned by bicycle enthusiasts who have been repairing bikes for years. Many of these places are well stocked and the owners are able to find everything you need with a quick check on well-organized shelves and in orderly bins. These shops are spiffy and feature all types of brand-new products and parts.

However, I still enjoy those little bicycle havens where some interesting person is more than happy to chat about bikes and he has a wealth of dirty and rusty old parts, bolts, wheels and rubber from a collection of rejected bikes piled high. Here you find the ultimate recyclers who turn one man's garbage into a valuable enterprise.

The other day I paid a mere \$20 to a legendary backyard bike-shop enthusiast by the name of Armand in Iroquois Falls. The experience was fantastic as I had the chance to search through his interesting pile of bikes and bike parts for the perfect wheel. He found an older style wheel that has provided my mountain bike with a new lease on life. We both enjoyed the quest for the wheel.

My visits to the old-time bike shops always take me back to the days when my bicycle was such a huge part of my life. In our "everything is disposable world", it is good to know that it is still possible to make something new from something old.

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CAMPING PREMIER *** (Hwy. 15/Exit 1, St-Bernard, 5 min. from Parc, with 2 services, outdoor pool)	1 877 246-4087	\$100*	\$141*
CAMPING COULBREEZE (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 5 km from Parc Safari, with 2 services)	(450) 246-3785	\$101*	\$142*
HOTEL ERIC DESCHAMPS (St-Bernard-de-Lacolle, 500 feet from Parc Safari, outdoor pool)	(450) 247-2346	\$140*	\$201*
HOTEL NESTO-BAR LE DOUGLAS (Naperville, 10 minutes from Parc Safari)	1 800 890-3363	\$140*	\$181*
AUBERGE RELAX 4 SAISONS INN (Noyan, 15 minutes from Parc Safari, break incl., outdoor pool)	1 877 294-2877	\$155*	\$208*
MANOIR BAGWELL-HALL (Franklin, deluxe units, breakfast, outdoor pool)	(450) 827-2415	\$163*	\$208*
AUBERGE HOTEL PREMIER INN *** (Hwy. 15/Exit 1, St-Bernard, 5 min. from Parc Safari, outdoor pool)	1 877 246-4087	\$165**	\$209**
COMFORT INN BROSSARD (continental breakfast incl.)	1 877 266-3324	\$167*	\$208*
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHTELIEU (break incl. / indoor pool & Spa)	1 800 825-4460	\$167**	\$210**
HOTEL LE DAUPHIN MONTREAL-LONGUEUIL (continental breakfast incl.)	1 800 840-0110	\$167*	\$208*
BEST WESTERN HOTEL NATIONAL BROSSARD (breakfast incl. / indoor pool)	1 800 465-0041	\$168*	\$210*
HOTEL GOUVERNEUR SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHTELIEU (breakfast and dinner free for kids)	1 800 687-3615	\$170*	\$210*
HOLIDAY INN MONTREAL-LONGUEUIL **** (indoor pool, spa, gym / children eat free)	1 800 263-0150	\$180*	\$238*

*Includes lodging for double or quadruple occupancy and admission for 2 people or 2 adults and 2 children (17 years and under) to Parc Safari for 2 consecutive days. Valid from June 21 to September 01, 2008, subject to availability. Off-season rates also available from May 16 to June 20, from August 25 to 29 and from September 02 to October 13, 2008. Taxes extra. 2-night packages also available. (1) Rates starting at

LEGAL NOTICE

Margerite Mary Icebound

Prenez avis que Margerite Mary Icebound, dont l'adresse du domicile est 82A rue Pine, Waswanipi, Quebec, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Marjorie Mary Icebound.

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our daughter Patricia Blacksmith on June 12-08. 'Hope you'll enjoy your special day in Chis. Pat, you bring so much love into our lives, God gave us only one beautiful girl, we miss u a lot. God bless and keep u safe. Once again, happy birthday. Love always; Mom & Dad, Bros. (WAS)

Happy Birthday to Hope Joy Metabie on June 4th, 2008. A happy belated birthday to my Dudeness Roger Sealhunter ;) 8-) Happy birthday Dude! Don't party too much! Lol! 'Hope you didn't party hard on your birthday... I Miss You Dude :(I Miss Bugging You 8-) Take care, I love you ;) €

Happy birthday to my beautiful, wonderful, supporting, helpful, non-stop loving mother Colleen Metabie ;) Happy birthday mom! I love you with all my heart and thank you for everything. You've done for me tru the thick and tru the bad times and good, all I want to say is happy birthday! Enjoy your day and I love you with all my heart € I'm glad to be your daughter. From Heather NineO'clock ;)

Happy birthday to my momma Leslie Tomatuk, who is celebrating her birthday on June 9th. I love you. Love, your kid Krystine :)

Happy birthday to the following special people: Johnny Abraham: June 11, Sam Kawapit: June 19, Cheryl Bobbish: June 23, David Kawapit: June 25, Terrell and Madeleine Kawapit: June 29. Enjoy your birthdays with your family and friends. XOXOXOX Betsy & Michael (Whapmagoostui)

PERSONAL MESSAGES

Just a little shout out to my girlz in Chisasibi, you know who you are! First of all, I wanna thank God for you guys & I miss you!!! Tori, thanks for being there; Sonia, I love you! Shania, SarahJane, Cecile-Ann & more, I miss you! All the way from Mistissini... Lol! Suzanne P.S.: I might come in July =)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Holly Visitor, Ricky Blackned and Jonathan Wapachee for completing the elementary section, so next is high school, then college and then university. I want to see you go all the way because you are very smart and unique in your own ways. Don't give up, never quit!!! Education is one of the best things in life. Love you so very much! Take care of urselfs, love auntie Cynthia B.

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 40th anniversary to our parents Bessie and Charlie Blackned. It was fun being with you guys for the past, ummm, how many years? Dad is funny sometimes and mom is tough. Umm, we can say so much more. Thanks for everything you've done for us. For your help and support with our children. Love, your 10 kids...

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

It's never too late to say happy Father's Day to my love Kevin Mianscum. Happy Father's DAY! I know you'll always be a great daddy because you are, ur trying ur best. Thank you for being there for your son since he was born and helping me with everything. I love you more than I can say. With all my love, Cynthia Blackned and your son Colton Mianscum. I am always here for you and always have been since the 1st day we met. Luv U forever!

IN MEMORIAM

The family of late Helen Capissisit Gull of Waswanipi, QC would like to say thank you to: -all staff of 2nd floor Chibougamau Hospital -Cree Patients Services of Chibougamau Hospital -Chisasibi hospital staff -Waswanipi Police Department -Waswanipi clinic staff and MSDC -Chief John Kitchen, and all those who took the time to be with her during her last days... We appreciate your kind support. From Jeannie Beck in Lansdowne, Ont., Lily Sutherland, Jacqueline Barney, Dorothy Happyjack, Emily Mianscum, (step children) Winnie Happyjack, Charlotte Cooper, Jacky Gull, Margo Muir in Ottawa, Ont.

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Drugs: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolence-conjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality resources center:

1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:

1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

Residential School Survivors:

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HOLIDAY INN MONTRÉAL-LONGUEUIL **** (piscine int., spa, gym / les enfants mangent gratuitement)	1 800 253-0159	188 \$	230 \$

* Incluent l'hébergement en occupation double ou quadruple et l'admission pour 2 personnes ou 2 adultes et 2 enfants (17 ans et moins) au Parc Safari 2 journées consécutives. Valable du 21 juin au 01 septembre 2008, selon disponibilité. Tarification basse saison aussi disponible du 16 mai au 20 juin, du 25 au 29 août et du 02 septembre au 13 octobre 2008. Taxes en sus. **Possibilité de séjour de 2 nuits** ⁽¹⁾ Tarif à partir de

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or

Pamela MacLeod (COTA) at (418) 923-2410
or by email at training@creetourism.ca.

Partnership Hosts:



Cree Human Resources Development
Cree Regional Authority
(418) 923-3285



Cree Tourism Association
(418) 923-2410
Pamela MacLeod

